

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Claim 8 was amended to correct a grammatical error. Claim 9 was amended to correct claim dependency. Claims 7-10 remain pending in this application.

Claims 7-10 were rejected on the ground of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,713,562. The Examiner's rationale is set forth on page 2 of the Office Action.

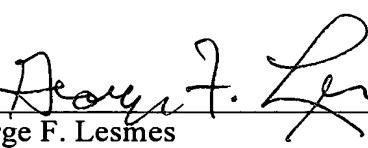
In order to expedite prosecution, Applicants are concurrently filing a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome this rejection. The filing of a terminal disclaimer to obviate a rejection based on nonstatutory double patenting is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection. *Quad Environmental Technologies Corp. v. Union Sanitary District*, 946 F.2d 870, 20 USPQ2d 1392 (Fed. Cir. 1991). The court indicated that the "filing of a terminal disclaimer simply serves the statutory function of removing the rejection of double patenting, and raises neither a presumption nor estoppel on the merits of the rejection."

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (703) 838-6683.

Respectfully submitted,

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